Rutgers College, N. Brunswick N. J. November 27th. 1837

Dear Brethren of the Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. Jersey.

In my last letter, I mentioned the commencement of a revival of religion in this place. My letter, however, was ready to send away before any unusual manifestation of feeling arose; and I could only subjoin a hasty notice of the existing state of things. The extension of Christ's Kingdom is an object, we doubt not, dear to your hearts; and it may afford you pleasure and profit to hear of the work of grace with which we have been favored. You may, perhaps, have obtained the particulars already, from other sources, yet we will venture to give you a sketch as far as it came under our observation.

The commencement of the revival was in the Baptist Church. Meetings were held there daily for three weeks in succession. Shortly after their commencement, the house was invariably crowded in the evening, large numbers attending from the other churches. At the close of these meetings, about sixty or seventy had, professedly, met with a change of heart. Before this, however, the feeling had extended itself widely throughout the place; so much so, that meetings were held more frequently, and large numbers assembled to hear with deep interest. The Lecture room of the Presbyterian Church was open every evening, but soon became too small to contain the congregation. The meetings were transfered to the Church, and the interest continued to increase. During this season, a meeting of the Presbytery of New Brunswick was held in this Church, in the circumstances of which we see the hand of God in a remarkable manner.

At a meeting of the Presbytery held at Boundbrook, in April last, it was resolved, that in view of the declension of religion throughout the churches, a day of fasting and prayer should be observed by the Presbytery. New Brunswick was appointed as the place of meeting. When this resolution

was adopted, all, apparently, was one scene of spiritual death throughout the churches. The time for the appointed meeting at length arrived; and it was held at a period when the Spirit of God seemed to have entered well nigh every house. It was indeed a solemn season, and the coincidence can only be traced to the ruling power of Him who knows all things from the beginning. The revival commenced in two or three weeks succeeding the adoption of the resolution.

In the Reformed Dutch Church also, the work was solemn and powerful. The Methodist Church likewise, shared largely in the Spirit's influences. In the Free Church there were a number of hopeful converts. The Episcopal Church held extra meetings, but I have heard of no special result. There is a 2nd Methodist Church, but of this I have heard nothing. The meetings in several of these churches, were continued each evening until near the close of the session; and, in at least one, even later than that. The whole number of hopeful conversions was probably more than five hundred. During this season, morning prayer-meetings were held at all the churches.

The preaching at this season was eminently practical and close in its appeals to the conscience. We were favored with the labors of Drs. Alexander, Miller, Breckinridge, and Rice of Princeton; Drs. Brownlee and Ferris of N. York; and Professors Dodd and J. W. Alexander of the former place, and a few others.

The season that we enjoyed at the college was one of the deepest interest. A seriousness became manifest shortly after the commencement of the revival. Several who had long been professors of religion, felt that it was a time when active exertions were required on their part. Seven or eight met together for prayer and mutual advice. We resolved upon private, personal exertions, and determined to spend the coming Saturday as a day of fasting

and prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the College. On the afternoon of this day, our usual weekly prayer-meeting was held: it was one of unusual solemnity. On Sabbath morning, the interval between the Bible recitation and the Chapel service, was such an one as had probably never before been witnessed there. Throughout the room, companies of two or three could be seen engaged in solemn conversation on the interests of the soul. In a day or two, several professors of religion assembled with those who were inquiring what they should do to be saved, in a private room for prayer. These ~~little~~ meetings were held for several days in this place, but were then removed to the College and some one of the Professors met with us daily. Meetings for prayer were continued until the close of the Session, though not so frequently held as at first. About twenty-four in all professed to have met with a change of heart. Several of them are already in a course of preparation for the Ministry.

Eternity alone can fully show how many of all those mentioned have been really converted, and then only, shall we be able to appreciate the blessing of this outpouring of the Spirit. To doubt that it was the work of the Lord, would show a mind as unbelieving as was exhibited by the obstinate incredulity of Thomas. It was remarked by the Rev. Dr. Breckinridge, that the evidences of God's presence were as clearly seen "as when he trod the trembling summit of Sinai."

Will you not join with us, dear brethren, in ascribing all the glory to God. We would humble ourselves before him, and while we adore we would say, that "His own right hand hath gotten him the victory." He has wrought here in a manner which completely sets aside the self-gratulations of men.

May I not add that this is an additional claim upon our attention to the heathen. Millions of men stand trembling on the borders of that grave that shall bury in its ruins every hope of eternal life. Then let us hasten to lay on the altar of God the only sacrifice that man can offer, — the lives, the talents, that we have received from his hands. When you pray for "Thy Kingdom come," brethren, remember us at a throne of grace. And though many of us are now strangers in the flesh and may ever be so on earth; though we, as another should make their last home among the tribes of Africa, or on the plains of Hindoostan, or the wilds of Siberia, may we all meet a happy company of the redeemed, in heaven.

Very respectfully —

Be so kind as to favor us with an early communication.

Wm. W. Halloway Cor. Sec: of the
S. of Prog. in N. of Rutgers College, N. Brunswick N. J.

Society of Inquiry on Missions

Theological Seminary

Princeton N. J.